

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 9, 1999

**ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-21-99**

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY ICPC LIAISONS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Changes
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulations Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

**REFERENCE: COUNTY MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS**

The purpose of this Notice is to provide additional information on recently enacted legislation (Chapter 311, Statutes of 1998) regarding California placements in out-of-state group homes. As you were informed in All County Letter No. 98-94 dated December 17, 1998 (copy attached), Family Code Section 7911 requires a county multidisciplinary team (MDT) assessment and placement recommendation for wards and dependents of California juvenile courts for whom an out-of-state group home placement is proposed.

Emergency regulations were recently promulgated effective January 1, 1999, which include the addition of Section 31-066 to Manual of Policies and Procedures, Division 31. Copies of these emergency regulations were forwarded to all County Welfare Departments and Probation Departments. Please note, assessments and recommendations for children placed in an out-of-state group home prior to August 19, 1998, were due by February 18, 1999, for placements to continue. For children placed in an out-of-state group home between August 19, 1998, and February 28, 1999, an assessment and placement recommendation must be obtained no later than six (6) months from the date of placement. Effective March 1, 1999, an assessment and placement recommendation must be made by a MDT prior to the placement of a child in an out-of-state group home.

The Out-of-State Placement Policy Unit located within CDSS has assigned Yvette Hernandez, MSW, Anne Murray, LCSW, and Sandra Hammer, MA, Associate Deputy Compact Administrators, to assist placement agencies with questions and concerns regarding the assessment and placement recommendation responsibilities of the MDTs. The Associate Deputy Compact Administrators will also be reviewing the assessment and placement recommendations as part of CDSS recentralization of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). The Out-Of-State Placement Policy Unit is requesting that all social service and probation agencies submit the name of the contact person representing each multidisciplinary team to Ms. Hernandez. Please telephone, fax (916-323-9266) or email ([yhernand@dss.ca.gov](mailto:yhernand@dss.ca.gov)) this information by Monday, March 22, 1999.

The Associate Deputy Compact Administrators will also be coordinating one-day regional training sessions throughout California. The purpose of these sessions will be to present an overview of the assessment and placement recommendation responsibilities of the MDTs. If you are interested in attending these sessions, please advise Ms. Hernandez accordingly.

Page Two

If you have questions regarding the assessment and placement recommendations of the MDTs, please contact Ms. Hernandez at (916) 445-2747.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:  
Marjorie Kelly on 3/9/1999*

MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



December 17, 1998

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 98-94

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENTS  
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS  
ALL STATE ICPC ADMINISTRATORS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT  
OF CHILDREN - **RECENTRALIZING ICPC FOR  
GROUP HOME PLACEMENTS**

REFERENCE: FAMILY CODE SECTION 7900 et. seq.  
SENATE BILL 933 (CHAPTER 311, STATUTES OF 1998)

The purpose of this Letter is to notify California county social services and probation departments and Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) in other states of new California statutory requirements and administrative procedures affecting the interstate placement of children into group homes. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is now writing emergency regulations to implement these new statutes, policies and procedures.

Recent California legislation (Senate Bill 933, Chapter 311, Statutes of 1998), Family Code Section 7911.1, requires a county multidisciplinary team assessment and placement recommendation for wards and dependents of California juvenile courts for whom an out-of-state group home placement is proposed. This legislation also requires that all out-of-state group homes providing care to California children be certified according to California licensing standards. In conjunction with the implementation of these new requirements, the CDSS is recentralizing ICPC processing of requests for the placement of all California children into *group homes in other states and of requests for placements into California group homes from other states*.

## CENTRALIZED ICPC GROUP HOME PLACEMENT PROCESSING

CDSS has established a specialized Out-of-State Placement Policy Unit (OSPP) to process other states' ICPC requests for placements into California group homes and to process ICPC requests from California counties for placements of juvenile court dependents and wards into out-of-state group homes. Effective January 15, 1999, ICPC requests for such placements *must* be submitted to the OSPP Unit at the address below. As such, California probation departments and county social services agencies will no longer be authorized to act on behalf of CDSS to request ICPC services from other states or to approve or deny ICPC requests from other states for group home placements. ***These important changes apply only to group home placements.***

Once the court has ordered the placement, the local California sending agency will prepare and forward to the OSPP Unit the original and three copies of the ICPC Placement Request (100A) together with three complete sets of supporting documentation. (Supporting documentation is not attached to the **original** 100A form.) The OSPP Unit will review the request to determine whether all requirements have been met, and forward it to the Compact Administrator in the receiving state. The receiving state's Compact Administrator will return the placement decision to the OSPP Unit, who will send a copy of the signed 100A to the sending agency. If the sending agency places the child in the approved group home, the sending agency must complete and send a Report on Placement Status (100B) to the OSPP Unit. Sending agencies are reminded that the placement must be made within six months of approval by the receiving state. Otherwise, a new 100A package must be submitted.

The new OSPP Unit mailing address is:

Marika Wolf, Manager and  
Deputy Compact Administrator\*\*  
OSPP Unit  
California Department of Social Services  
Children and Family Services Division  
Foster Care Branch  
744 P Street, MS 19-78  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone: (916) 445-0813  
FAX: (916) 324-9539  
E-mail: [mwolf@dss.ca.gov](mailto:mwolf@dss.ca.gov)

\*\*Effective January 1, 1999, Ms. Wolf replaces Ms. Ernestine Barbieri as the Deputy Compact Administrator

## OUT-OF-STATE GROUP HOME CERTIFICATION

Senate Bill 933 requires out-of-state group homes used by county social services agencies or probation departments for the placement of California dependent children and wards to be certified by CDSS to California licensing standards. Pursuant to Family Code Section 7911.1(i), only those out-of-state group homes specifically authorized by the California Compact Administrator to receive public funds (federal, state and county) are eligible to receive those funds, pending CDSS certification. All County Information Notice (ACIN) I-53-98 (and subsequently ACIN I-67-98) notified California counties of the out-of-state group homes authorized to receive public funds for the care of California dependent children and wards pending certification, effective August 18, 1998. A copy of each ACIN is attached.

## MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM REQUIREMENTS

Senate Bill 933 requires California counties to ensure that multidisciplinary team assessments and placement recommendations are written and submitted to the juvenile court prior to the placement of court dependents or wards into out-of-state group homes (Family Code Section 7911 and 7911.1). Counties with children placed on or after August 18, 1998, but prior to March 1, 1999, must complete and submit county multidisciplinary team assessments and placement recommendations to the court within six months of the date of placement. For children placed on or after March 1, 1999, California counties must submit multidisciplinary team assessment and placement recommendations to the juvenile court prior to the placement of wards or dependents into out-of-state group homes.

**Effective March 1, 1999, required supporting documentation specified in the 100A Instructions must include the county multidisciplinary team placement recommendation.**

Page Four

Counties with interagency placement committees may wish to utilize that committee as their multidisciplinary team. However, the county must ensure that the committee meets the requirements specified in Family Code Section 7911.1(f) by having participating county members from social services, mental health, probation, superintendents of schools and other members as determined by the county.

The intent of the assessment and recommendation is to ensure that the needs of all children considered for out-of-state group home placements are adequately reviewed and evaluated; that in-state facilities have been considered and determined to be unavailable or do not provide appropriate treatment programs; and that an appropriate out-of-state facility is available. The multidisciplinary teams will be reviewing not only the circumstances precipitating the request for an out-of-state placement, but also how this placement is related to the permanent plan for the child. The OSPP Unit will be available to multidisciplinary teams for confirmation of the certification status of out-of-state group homes and to provide substantive overviews of the programs operated by the out-of-state group homes under consideration.

If you have any questions about the ICPC process for group home placements into or out of California, please contact the OSPP Unit at (916) 445-0813.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed by  
Marjorie Kelley on 12/17/1998***

MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments  
(ACIN I-53-98 and ACIN I-67-98)

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 15, 1998

## ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-53-98

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS

## REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: OUT-OF-STATE GROUP HOME PLACEMENTS

The purpose of this Notice is to provide information on recently enacted legislation that established important new requirements and procedures regarding the placement of dependent children and wards in out-of-state group homes.

Senate Bill 933 (Chapter 311, Statutes of 1998) requires that out-of-state group homes used by county social services agencies or probation departments for the placement of dependent children and wards must be certified by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to California licensing standards. By August 1999, CDSS will conduct on-site inspections and program reviews to determine that all out-of-state group homes used by California probation departments or county social services agencies meet the regulatory standards required of similar in-state facilities. Group homes determined to meet those requirements will be certified for one year and will continue to be eligible for public funds for the care of California children. Subsequent re-certifications will include annual inspections and program reviews. Additional inspections, program reviews, and investigations will take place as determined by the CDSS.

Pursuant to Section 7911.1(I), only out-of-state group homes authorized by the Compact Administrator to receive state funds are eligible to receive public funds, pending CDSS certification. Effective August 18, 1998, only those out-of-state group homes on the attached list are authorized to receive public funds - county, state or federal - for the care of California dependent children and wards.

In conjunction with these new requirements, CDSS is reestablishing an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) placement processing function within CDSS to ensure that all ICPC requests into out-of-state group homes meet California statutory requirements. This will not affect ICPC procedures for out-of-state placements into relative or non-relative foster homes. The target implementation date for placement processing by CDSS of all out-of-state group home placement requests is November 1, 1998. Procedures are now being developed, and specific additional information will be available in a subsequent All County Letter.

If you have questions regarding certification standards and procedures, please contact Dave Dodds, Chief, Advocacy Branch, Community Care Licensing Division at (916) 657-2346. Questions related to ICPC policies and procedures should continue to be directed to Ernestine Barbieri, Deputy Compact Administrator, at (916) 445-2807.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by  
Marjorie Kelley on September 15, 1998*

MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosure



AUTHORIZED GROUP HOMES  
PENDING CERTIFICATION

Excelsior (Colorado)  
Colorado Boys Ranch (Colorado)  
Glen Mills (Pennsylvania)  
Mingus Mountain (Arizona)  
Rite of Passage (Nevada with the exception of the Remote training campus)  
Vision Quest (Arizona)  
Normative Services (Wyoming)  
Azelway (Texas)  
Boys/Girls Town of Missouri  
Boys Town of San Antonio  
Children's Home of Detroit  
Childea Institute (Wisconsin)  
Christie School (Oregon)  
Church of God Children's Home (North Carolina)  
Cinnamon Hills (Utah)  
Desert Hills (New Mexico)  
Devereaux (Texas)  
Devereaux (Massachusetts)  
Heritage Center (Utah)  
Kids Peace National Centers (Pennsylvania)  
Lutheran Family Services of Illinois  
Nashua Child Center (New Hampshire)  
New Hope Treatment Centers (South Carolina)  
Prairie Learning Center (North Dakota)  
Raindancer Youth Services (Utah)  
Sorenson's Ranch School (Utah)  
St. Aloysius Orphanage (Ohio)  
The Boys Ranch (New Mexico)  
Youth Dynamics, Inc. (Montana)

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



November 5, 1998

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-67-98

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Changes
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: OUT-OF-STATE GROUP HOME PLACEMENTS

The California Department of Social Services has been notified that certain out-of-state group homes used by county social services agencies or probation departments did not appear on the "Authorized Group Homes Pending Certification" listing sent to counties in All County Information Notice I-53-98. It has been determined that counties did have children placed in these facilities on or prior to August 18, 1998, therefore pursuant to Section 7911.1(I), the following facilities have been added to the list of out-of-state group homes authorized by the Compact Administrator to receive public funds-county, state or federal – for the care of California dependent children and wards:

Provo Canyon School (Utah)  
Griffith Center (Colorado)

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Foster Care Policy Bureau at (916) 445-0813.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*  
*Marjorie Kelly on November 5, 1998*

MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosure